



News Release

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
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<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/sherburne/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge Seeks Cattle Grazing Interest

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Sherburne County, MN is considering interested cattle producers (other species will be considered) to graze a designated areas on the Refuge. The grazing cell is approximately 1,500 acres. The grazing cells consist of mainly prairie openings with woodland, and wetland habitat types. The refuge is seeking producers with herds consisting of roughly 120-150 animals or 100-125 cow/calf pairs. The grazing period will be from approximately May 1st- September 1st.

The permittee will be responsible for maintaining permanent boundary fence and installing and moving temporary fence. Under this arrangement producers may be offered to graze up to a period of five years while within compliance of the grazing contract.

The purpose of the grazing program is to utilize this powerful habitat management tool as a biological control method to promote and enhance native grass and forb diversity in the prairies, reduce invasive species in the oak savanna and woodland habitats, and to aid in the control of reed canary and cattail in the wetlands.

Individuals will be selected based on receipt of a sealed high bid. All bids must be received no later than **3:30 pm Tuesday, February 21st, 2017.**

If you are interested or know someone interested in this program, please contact Greg Dehmer, assistant Refuge manager at **763-389-3323** to obtain a grazing bid package which will provide detailed information of the program, bidding requirements and expectations of the grazing permittee.

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and is located near the cities of Princeton, Zimmerman, and St. Cloud, in central Minnesota. Website: <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/sherburne/>. For more information on the Midwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service visit <http://midwest.fws.gov>.

